

Brownstone drug kingpin

Cops nab Slope man in prescription pill ring

By Alex Rush
The Brooklyn Paper

The alleged mastermind of a million-dollar prescription drug ring fooled everyone about the Adairville and OxyContin supply line that law enforcement officials say he was running out of his quiet Carroll Street condo.

Cops this week collared Pinchas Goldshtein, charging him with conspiracy and criminal sale of a controlled substance stemming from his distribution of thousands of pills that he received in the mail from two suppliers in California and distributing to New York dealers.

But even an employee at the post box center where Goldshtein allegedly picked up the supplies didn't know what was going on.

"He told us he was getting electronics!" exclaimed Joel, an employee at the Active Transportal service on Fifth Avenue, a few blocks from Goldshtein's apartment.

"We'd call him to pick up an envelope around 10:30 am and he'd come in sometime in the afternoon looking real sleepy. He was here three or four times a month."

The store, between First and Second streets, has not been accused of being involved in what has been called the city's biggest illegal prescription drug ring — though it certainly profited from it.

"He was a big tipper," Joel added.

Goldshtein's neighbors on the tree-lined block between Fourth and Fifth avenues were also pretty surprised after hearing that their street apparently harbored a drug kingpin.

"It's startling to know that something like this can go on right under your nose," said Paul Basile, who lives in the building next door to Goldshtein's. "He's only lived here about six months and was usually wearing sunglasses."

Goldshtein was arrested along with two California men who allegedly supplied the drugs in bulk, and three alleged street-level dealers.

The local pushers sold mostly to students and yuppies.

See DRUGS on page 5



Pinchas Goldshtein

KILLING FIELDS

Feds slaughter hundreds of Prospect Park geese



By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Dead, they're all dead.

Federal agents slaughtered more than 250 geese and dozens of goslings in Prospect Park after corralling the adults and their young into a small pen early Thursday morning, boxing them up, and tossing them in a gas chamber.

The horror-movie-style measure was part of the city's ongoing effort to exterminate the leathery creatures within a seven-mile radius from both LaGuardia and JFK airports — a radius that was expanded last year to include Prospect Park, putting all its birds in the path of a federally mandated massacre.

Carol Bannerman, a Department of Agriculture spokeswoman, confirmed the grimacing that federal Wildlife Services staff executed on the fateful morning of July 8.

"Free-ranging waterfowl like this can be gently herded, then individually picked out, put into crates, moved into a nearby location and euthanized using carbon dioxide," Bannerman said.

See GEESE on page 5



All the geese in this month-old picture are dead, thanks to a federal program to exterminate animals that get in the way of airplanes. Tell that to the kids.

Park lovers outraged

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Prospect Park was in mourning on Tuesday, as Brooklynites wrestled with the horrifying news that around 250 geese had been

sent to the gas chamber to protect airplanes flying thousands of feet overhead.

As parkgoers strolled by the lake completely devoid of geese, they struggled to reconcile their

love for wildlife with the need for air safety.

"It's appalling how it was done — gassing the geese," said Brian Wood, who was snapping photos.

See OUTRAGE on page 5

MASSACRE SCORECARD

Now that all the geese of Prospect Park lake have been exterminated in a stunning act of gossicle, The Brooklyn Paper takes a look at the winners and losers:

Winners

Fishermen: It will be a lot easier to catch that big bass now that the geese won't be getting hooked.

Swans and ducks: They'll no longer be competing with aggressive geese for breadcrumbs and other scraps. The whole lake is theirs.

Air travelers: No need to worry about another "bird strike" — if the feds have their way, there will be no geese within seven miles of all city airports.

Losers

Geese: They're all dead.

Parents: How do they answer the teary question, "Mommy, where did all the geese go?"

Tupper Thomas: Park administrator has gone silent, just as Prospect Park Alliance donors are wondering what is going on.

ARENA NAME ONLY

Best Western capitalizes on Barclays Center

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The Barclays Center basketball arena isn't even built, but one hotel is already cashing in on it.

But the lodge — the Best Western Arena Hotel — is a bit of a pump fake. Yes, like the arena, it's on Atlantic Avenue. But this basketball boardinghouse is actually a mile-and-a-half down the pike — between Nostrand and New York avenues, specifically.

That's not an easy jumpshot, or even a three-pointer. That's a buzzer-beater from the baseline.

Still, the "Best Western Arena" is the first high-profile business to take advantage of the controversial project, which won't be completed, at the earliest, until fall 2012.

Owner Mukesh Patel said he couldn't worry about such small details — he has to stake his claim now!

"Once it opens up, there will be a big jump of business," said Patel, whose hotel is ringed by auto repair shops. "It won't just be basketball games. There will be concerts, conventions — almost 365 days of activities!"

And Patel will certainly get plenty of bookings, given that most Ameri-



Mukesh Patel owns the new Best Western Arena Hotel on Atlantic Avenue, far from the site of the Barclays Center. Patel is pointing in the general direction of the distant future arena.

cans find hotels by taking a three-second glance at a Google map rather than considering that eight avenue blocks in New York City can mean the difference between bunking down on the Gold Coast or in a, well, neighborhood of auto repair shops.

Patel expects that Atlantic Avenue — at least the stretch between the arena and New York Avenue — is in for a major facelift.

See ARENA on page 5



It's hot out!

And to think that city bean counters wanted to close the Double-D pool this summer! Bather Nina Altamirano shows 'em why the Gowanus watering hole must stay open!



In this simulation, 19-year-old Ben Kochman dominates new teenager Jimmy Ramirez.

Youth will be served

League puts 14-year-olds in with big kids

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

When you're 14, it isn't easy getting side-lacked by a 19-year-old striker with 40 more

pounds of brawn.

But that's a reality for early teens in Brooklyn's American Youth Soccer Organization league at the Parade Grounds

this fall. Due to low enrollment, the 14-year-olds will be in there with the big boys, according to an e-mail sent to players' parents.

See YOUTH on page 5



Aileen McKay-Dalton

SUV kills Vespa mom

By Jared Foretek
The Brooklyn Paper

A beloved Fort Greene mother of three was killed last Thursday when her Vespa was slammed by a speeding SUV that witnesses said ran a red light.

Aileen McKay-Dalton, 40, was on Dekalb Avenue at around

5:25 pm when the Ford Explorer,

heading north on Clinton Avenue, plowed into her blue scooter. Witnesses said that McKay-Dalton had the green light.

"She was already in the intersection when he hit her," said witness Tara Simoncic, adding that the menacing vehicle "was go-

ing faster than the speed limit."

Simoncic said that two other witnesses "were pretty adamant" that McKay-Dalton, who was wearing a helmet, had the green light, though police have said that there was no crime committed.

See VESPA on page 2

Superfund takes this 'Toll'

Gowanus project officially dead in wake of fed clean-up

By Gary Bulso
The Brooklyn Paper

The "Superfund stigma" has claimed its first victim, as a development company that once envisioned a 500-unit complex along the banks of the fetid Gowanus Canal has officially bailed on its five-year pursuit of the project saying that it can't wait for the federal government to complete its proposed 10-plus-year clean-up.

Toll Brothers walked away from a \$5.75-million down payment it had made




Toll Brothers has officially bailed on building this mixed-use project along the Gowanus Canal.

on canal-front land just south of the Carroll Street bridge, making good on a promise to abandon its plan if the federal government designated the waterway a Superfund site, as it did in March.

"It just didn't financially make sense to close on the properties and then have to wait 15 to 20 years until we could develop them," said David Von Spreckels, senior vice president for the mostly suburban development company.

See TOLL on page 13



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Towns for country

Longtime congressman plans for another run

By Gary Buiso

The Brooklyn Paper
Rep. Ed Towns is hoping 15 is his lucky number. Surrounded by family, friends and lawmakers, Towns (D-Fort Greene) this week announced his re-election campaign on the steps of Borough Hall, his 15th such announcement in a decades-long political career.

At the event, presided over by his son and heir apparent, Assemblyman Darryl Towns (D-Bushwick), the refrain sounded straight out of 1982 — the year America fell in love with an alien with a taste for Reese's Pieces.

"We want ET! We want ET!" the crowd chanted.

But the cheers were for a more human ET — Towns, who began his first term as representative of the 10th Congressional District just one year after the sci-fi blockbuster, a career critics charge has been largely unremarkable, but boosted most recently by his selection as chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, a role that has given him national visibility.

On Monday, Towns was



Congressional District 10

energized under a hot sun in a light gray suit and pink tie, pledging to unite a district that is home to the borough's richest and poorest residents.

"We must come together!" Towns said.

Specifics were in short supply, but Towns said he planned to focus on promoting job growth and pressing banks that were rescued during the Great Recession to begin loaning money to businesses and individuals.

"Through this working-together process, we can do better," the lawmaker said. Towns was introduced by former borough president Howard Golden, clad



in a comfortable T-shirt and sweatpants. Back in 1976, Golden hired Towns to be his deputy borough president.

Colleagues heaped praise on the longtime lawmaker. "He represents core Democratic ideals," said Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-Coney Island), who pointed to Towns' "fighting for the most vulnerable" of his district by working to preserve affordable housing. "Change is a wonderful thing — sometimes," Nadler said to laughs.

But his 2008 opponent was less generous.

"I am sure there was a time that Mr. Towns was an engaged leader in Brooklyn," said Kevin Powell, the former MTV-reality star and community organizer who pledged to take on Towns again this fall. "He is still operating in an old paradigm of machine politics — that he will [one day] pass the seat along to his son. That is not acceptable and that is

not democracy. "He has been purposefully invisible in the district, except to the handful of voters he needs to get elected every couple of years," Powell continued.

In 2008, Towns defeated Powell in the primary with 67 percent of the vote compared to the challenger's 33 percent.

"You can't be invisible for 25 years in a district and expect to be elected again and again — that's just insanity," scoffed Towns spokesman Julian Phillips, who pointed to



PRO-INCUMBENT MOOD: Lots of pols gathered on the steps of Borough Hall to back Rep. Ed Towns' 15th re-election bid.

Towns' support of a \$60-million renovation of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, support of health care reform, and gun control as proof of his boss's keen ear for his constituents' concerns.

Supporters said they appreciated Towns' everyman quality. "He is a congressman you can speak to," said Bedford-Stuyvesant resident Cecil Bruce.

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VESPA...

Continued from page 1

Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) didn't parse words in a statement released after the accident.

"A 40-year-old woman traveling by motor scooter was struck by an SUV vehicle that ran a red light near DeKalb and Clinton Avenues," the councilwoman said.

A native of Scotland, McKay-Dalton leaves an 8-year-old daughter, two sons ages 3 and 6, and a husband, Michael Dalton, who met his future wife while the pair was still in high school in Scotland.

"She was everything," he told the Daily News. Family friend Pat Gleason described the dead woman as well liked and active in her community.

"She was truly larger than life," he said. "She was extremely witty and funny."

McKay-Dalton was very

involved with the Northside Catholic Academy in Williamsburg, which her children attended before the family moved to Fort Greene two years ago. By all accounts, McKay-Dalton threw herself just as actively into the life of her new community, riding her beloved Vespa through the neighborhood and to and from the Brooklyn Heights Montessori School in Cobble Hill, where her children are now enrolled.

The identity of the SUV driver is a matter of some speculation. The Daily News reported that witnesses saw the man wearing a gun holster and that the car was registered to the Treasury Department. However, the accident report obtained by The Brooklyn Paper said the car — driven by a 29-year-old Louisiana man — was registered to Metro Property Appraisers, a Manhattan firm that does not show

up in phone or business listings.

The Treasury Department declined to comment. In the meantime, James hounded the NYPD to step up the investigation in light of the allegation that the driver ran the red light.

"The NYPD must investigate the circumstances of this incident, and communicate openly with the victim's family, my office, and the community at large," she said.

Pressed repeatedly, the NYPD declined to go beyond its ruling that no crime was committed in the accident. James's office organized a vigil scheduled for this afternoon at the crash site to press for an investigation. Simonic, the witness, wasn't holding her breath for a full analysis of what happened, given how she was treated at the crime scene.

"The officer told me, 'You can stay or you can go. I don't really care,' she said. She stayed, and the officer eventually took her statement."

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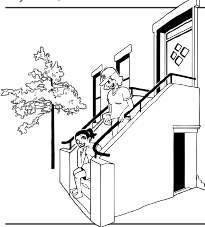
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THE SHOOT

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

COBBLE HILL



Residents of this Clinton Street brownstone want a Norah Jones-style renovation.

Jonesing for side windows

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

A Cobble Hill couple wants to "pull a Norah" and add four windows to the side of their austere brownstone — and preservationists are howling once again.

The proposed renovations to the Clinton Street crib echo the controversial seven windows that singer Norah Jones's had punched into a blank wall on the side of her Amity Street house, which is only one block away.

Jones managed to get city approval for her renovations without presenting them to the local community board late last year — and, as a result, many Cobble Hill preservationists feared that the neighborhood's aesthetic would soon be under assault.

"Jones's windows established a precedent," said Roy Sloane, the president of the Cobble Hill association and a passionate preservationist. "Our fears have been realized."

In addition to the four windows, the couple that is moving into the 170-year-old residence between Amity and Congress streets want to add a swimming pool, an enclosed glass porch in the back and one story to a portion of the building.

When the design was presented to Community Board 6 by architects Andrew Bernheimer and Jared Della Valle, board members reacted with skepticism and pledged to oppose the renovations.

Sloane and others in the neighborhood believe that windows on the side of residences in Cobble Hill contradict the 19th-century Greek Revival style, which dominates the neighborhood.

"It's a very egalitarian style — [original residents] tried not to overawe their neighbors," said Sloane. "This low-key character affords privacy. [It's] the same character that makes people want to move to Cobble Hill in the first place!"

Sloane said the owners of 60 similar houses with blank facades in the historic district now have a "window of opportunity" should they decide to pursue Jones-like renovations.

Still, the new proposal is not as major an overhaul as Jones's, given that the Clinton Street brownstone already features two windows towards the rear of the building.

Bernheimer referred inquiries to Della Valle, who did not return a phone call. A message left with building owners Joe Schottland and Monia Dini was also not returned before our architecturally sound online deadline.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Mud-slinging on Montague

Protesters: Ricky's cream backs Israel's 'illegal' act

By Ben Kochman
The Brooklyn Paper

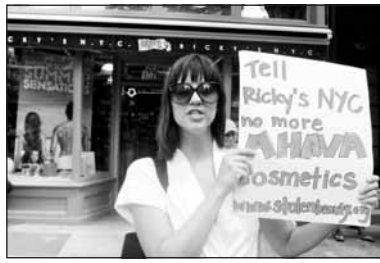
The centuries-old Middle East conflict turned into a bizarre form of mud-slinging on quiet Montague Street on Friday when protesters demanded that the Ricky's cosmetics shop selling a dirt-based cosmetic that, apparently, is helping Israel's "illegal" occupation of the West Bank.

The store's crime, according to the Brooklyn for Peace protesters, is its selling of lotions and creams made by Ahava, an Israeli company that takes mud from the Dead Sea and manufactures it into beauty products in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank.

"Hey Ricky, what's that scent? Smells like an illegal settlement!" chanted the crowd, many of whom were decked out in spa attire for the occasion.

Friday's protest was the first Brooklyn stop of the protesters' "Stolen Beauty" tour, a campaign started by the anti-war interest group Code Pink. The group labels the occupation of the West Bank a violation of international law, and Ahava's business a "dirty" exploitation of Palestinian resources.

In an earlier phase of



MUD-FIGHT: Dana Balicki joined a dozen other protesters who rallied in front of the Ricky's cosmetics store on Montague Street on Friday to complain about Israel's occupation of the West Bank. Yes, it's related.

the campaign, Code Pink took its fight to retail giant Costco — and won. Costco quickly folded under the public pressure and pulled its anti-war interest group Code Pink. The group labels the occupation of the West Bank a violation of international law, and Ahava's business a "dirty" exploitation of Palestinian resources.

The protest raged on —

complete with a guitar — but Ricky's employees said that they just want to sell cosmetics in peace.

"We can't bend over backwards for everyone who's not happy," said the Montague Street store's manager, Dominick Costello, who so far resisted demands that he remove the goods from his 24 New York-area locations.

The protest raged on —

have a problem, these people should go to the source. I'm in retail, not politics."

The manager added that Ahava products sell well. Some people, he said, bought them out of spite because they didn't agree with the protesters.

"People seem so pissed about this that we're selling more of this stuff than ever before," he laughed.

ing blow," and said that the majority of the destruction took place in the sanctuary.

There was also so much smoke that firefighters were forced to bash through stained glass windows in the 116-year-old church, a crucial meeting place for the Downtown Brooklyn faithful.

"This is our home base, where we have our soup kitchen for the poor, 12-step meetings for those suffering with addiction, as well as services," Colon said.

"This is very difficult for us to deal with."

Colon estimated that the repair process will cost upwards of \$1 million, and has been reaching out to the community for donations. The pastor said that the church's interior was so deeply affected that there will be no service in the upstairs part of the building for a very long time.

BOERUM HILL

Devastating church fire

Pastor holds services in parking lot

By Ben Kochman
The Brooklyn Paper

The fire that gutted the historic Baptist Temple Church on Third Avenue caused such enormous damage that the pastors held Sunday's services in the parking lot.

The July 7 fire broke out in an old organ pipe, sparking a massive conflagration that required 138 firefighters to put out. The FDNY arrived at 11:23 p.m. and had to call for backup twice before smokestacks got the fire under control at around 2 a.m. Four firefighters were hurt in the process.

Senior pastor Edwin Colon called the damage a "devastat-



A fire devastated the Baptist Church on Third Avenue and State Street in Downtown last week.

woman Maureen Wren described as a "coastal erosion area."

"The DEC came in at the last minute and said that the Parks Department didn't file the proper paperwork," said Gach, the president of Party Magic. "It was an application for a permit, and we're going through a whole rigmarole right now — trying to get through it as fast as we can."

"Party Magic's contract requires that it is solely responsible for all permits and approvals," said Phil Abramson, a spokesman for the Parks Department, which awarded Gach the contract for the site, though not all the permits, apparently.

It is unclear who is to blame — but it is clear who got hosed, or, more accu-

ately, did not get hosed: families leading to Coney Island during this scorcher of a summer.

And it doesn't look like the attraction will be up and running at Coney Island any time soon. According to Wren, the state agency has not yet received an application from the vendor or the city.

"They did not contact [us] for a permit," said Wren. "Our staff found out about the violation on our own. Then we contacted the city and indicated a permit was needed. We made numerous efforts to get an application in place, but to date we haven't received one."

So Gach is left with three enormous waterslides, and nowhere to put them.

"We would love for people to be enjoying the waterslides," said Gach.

Two weeks ago, when the

future of the park was not in question and an Independence Day weekend opening was set, Gach had hyped his 35-foot Steeplechase Slide, saying, "It's like riding a big marshmallow."

Now, Gach is just scrambling to keep his park afloat and his head above water.

"It would be a conservative statement to say it has messed up our revenue flow," Gach said. "It's been a problem for the staff we hired and the equipment that has been delivered."

The state agency told Gach that it would prioritize the paperwork for Water Slide Beach, though Wren could not give an estimate of how long it would take to approve the attraction, since her agency had not yet received an application. Borough President Markowitz is trying to expedite the process.

CONEY ISLAND

Water slide park sunk

Red tape gets in the way of cool fun

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

In the midst of a record-smashing heatwave, an all-too-familiar villain is keeping sweating Brooklynites from a new water park at Coney Island — bureaucratic red tape.

Three mega-waterslides were ready to be inflated for the opening of "Waterslide Beach" on the sand at Coney Island last weekend, said owner Anthony Gach, but someone — though who is not clear — failed to file paperwork with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which must approve any construction on the beach, which speaks-



So much for this grand water park — the state put the kibosh on it, despite the heatwave. Thanks.

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More 'Terminal' madness!

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Are there more thieves than shoppers at the Atlantic Center Mall? More criminal activity has popped off at the uber- sketchy hub of commerce.

A thief snatched a woman's bag while she shopped on July 5. The victim told cops she had placed the bag down for less than a minute at around 12:30 pm when the thief took a cellphone, an iPod and \$20.

A thief managed to swipe a woman's wallet from her bag on July 6 while she sat in front of the Children's Place store at around 1 pm. When the victim went to make a purchase

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

minutes later, she realized she was missing an assortment of credit cards and IDs.

A crafty thief bumped a woman and stole her billfold while she shopped at the DSW Shoe Warehouse on July 10. The victim told cops that she was shopping some shoes at around 4:30 pm when some

goon bumped her. When she went to buy some items, she realized she was missing \$20 and an assortment of IDs and

credit cards.

A thief swiped a woman's pocket book from the back of her chair while she was partying at a Lafayette Avenue bar on July 11.

The victim told cops she was hanging out at Mullanes between Lafayette and DeKalb avenues at around 12:30 am when she noticed her bag was missing. She lost an assortment

ment of credit cards, IDs, a Blackberry, and \$100.

Fiends! Two 20-somethings were beat down by a bloodthirsty trio of youngsters in Fort Greene Park on July 10.

The victims, who are 25 and 26 years old, said that they were inside the park and near the corner of Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park at around 10:45 pm when the three thugs in training approached and said, "All we want is your money!"

The soon-to-be victims—perhaps noting that their attackers were only two 12 and 13 year old boys and a 14-year-old girl—refused, and were both beaten about the face.

Minutes later, Officer Khamwate Brijnukhan slapped the cuffs on the three troublemakers.

Freak out!

A sexual deviant assaulted a woman in Fort Greene Park on July 9.

The victim told cops that she was near the corner of Washington Park and DeKalb Avenue with the perp at around 3:15 am when the freak asked her, "Want to go on a date with me?" The victim refused, stood up from the bench and the rejected freak groped her chest.

The victim then went to Brooklyn Hospital and alerted cops but refused medical attention. She also said she lost \$25.

B&E

A woman discovered that her Lafayette Avenue apartment had been invaded by a thief earlier this month.

The victim told cops that she was last in her crib between Carlton Avenue and Cumberland Street at around noon on July 3. When she returned seven days later, her front door and window to the fire escape were unlocked. The thief got an assortment of jewelry worth \$5,000, an iMac computer and camera equipment.

Bat and bike

A baseball bat-wielding bicycle thief menaced a deliveryman and stole his ride on July 8.

The owner of the bicycle told cops that he was riding at the corner of DeKalb and Clason avenues at around 11:20 pm when the berserk thug tried to go all "Adam Dunn" on him. The victim ditched the bicycle, and the thief picked it up and took off.

Moto madness

At least two motorcycles were stolen within the 88th precinct last week—though one was returned to its rightful owner.

The owner of a Kawasaki crotch rocket noticed his ride was missing from South Elliot Place on July 8. He said he had parked it two days before between Fulton Street and Hanson Place at around 8:45 pm.

Three teens were busted trying to steal a Suzuki from Lafayette Avenue on July 8. Cops rolled up on the scene between South Oxford Street and South Portland Avenue at around 7:30 pm and arrested two of the minors, who had broken the steering lock and cut several console wires.

—Stephen Brown

77TH PRECINCT

Prospect Heights

Bag swipe

A sticky-fingered suspect made off with a 34-year-old woman's bag on July 5 as she partied at an Underhill Avenue nightclub.

The victim told police the unattended pocketbook disappeared from Woodwork between Pacific and Dean streets shortly before midnight and wasted no time using the ATM card found inside.

Fierce foot

A burglar kicked in a St. Marks Avenue apartment door during a burglary over the Independence Day weekend, but took nothing.

The tenant in the unit which is between Flatbush and Carlton avenues, told police that she returned from a short trip at 2:30 pm on July 5 and found her front door opened and damaged.

The apartment was ransacked, but no valuables were missing, she told police.

—Thomas Tracy

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Pool uncool

That didn't take long! Less than two weeks after the city's public pools opened for the season, a thief stole a wallet and \$200 from a locker at the Red Hook Pool on Bay and Clinton streets—the first reported crime of the year.

The victim told cops he finished his dip at about 5 pm on July 10 and came back to find his locker broken and its contents missing.

Pipe 'n' mug

A brute wielding a pipe mugged a 61-year-old man on West Ninth Street on July 8.

The victim told cops that he was near the Smith Street F-train station at about 7:30 am when the jerk approached and demanded money. When the man refused, the ruffian smacked him in the face with a lead pipe, took some cash and fled.

Burg on Henry

Some hoodlum broke into a Henry Street apartment and stole cash and a purse on July 9.

The victim said that she returned to her home, which is between Kane and Degraw streets, at about 9 pm to find that her door and lock were busted open and that her purse, \$60 and expensive headphones were missing.

Theft roundup

There were at least three incidents of random theft this week, as quick-handed thieves stole property when no one was looking.

Someone stole a girl's purse on July 6 while she attended summer school at PS 32 on Hoy Street. The victim told cops that she was using the bathroom at the school, which is between Union and President streets, at about 3:30 pm when her purse, diamond earrings and cash were taken.

A thief snagged a laptop from an employee of Marius Cafe on Henry and Union streets on July 7. The employee told cops that he looked away for a second at about 5 pm, and when he turned back the laptop was missing.

Some hoodlum stole a 1994 Plymouth Vix from its parking spot on Henry Street on July 8. The victim parked the car near Nelson Street late on July 7, and when he returned at 10:30 am the next day it was gone.

—Andy Campbell

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO-Boerum Hill-Downtown

Scummerhorn

At least two thefts went down on Schermerhorn Street between Hoyt and Bond streets this week. Here are the frustrating details:

A 2009 Suzuki motorcycle was taken sometime between 7 and 10 pm on July 6.

A supposed goateard stole \$2,000 from Brooklyn Fare overnight on July 7. The burglar broke the glass door of the specialty food shop, taking the cash, a credit card and a gun license.

See BLOTTER on page 13

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- C. both of the above
- D. none of the above

ANSWER: C



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ANSWER: A



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- A. packed tightly in the freezer and loosely in the fridge
- B. packed loosely in the freezer and tightly in the fridge
- C. topped with cheese

ANSWER: B



It's best to run clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers at night because:

- A. they're more energy efficient in the cooler evening hours
- B. the soothing sound helps put you to sleep
- C. energy demand is lower

ANSWER: C



Which is more energy efficient?

- A. your computer's sleep mode
- B. your computer's screen saver mode
- C. turning your computer completely off

ANSWER: C



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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 16-22, 2010

No bull!

New Williamsburg bar offers mechanical rodeo with drinks

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Sure, she'll be impressed when you bring her out for a couple drinks and a taco, but she'll be downright awestruck when you survive more than 10 seconds in the arena with a raging bull after dinner — it's a guaranteed icebreaker that's now available in Williamsburg.

Viva Toro, a massive bar and restaurant that just opened on Berry Street, installed the borough's sole mechanical bull, and you can saddle up for free. It's a wild ride — daring enough that you have to sign an injury release form — that's garnered so much attention, people from as far and wide as Manhattan are braving the L train for their shot at straddling glory.

Upper West Sider Julia Davis said that survival is all about having strong thighs and willpower.

"I have a lot of both, so I think I might rock the bull," Davis said. "It's high time that Brooklyn got it's own robotic steed."

The bull, which bartenders called "Michelle," is covered with padding and sits atop a thick inflatable stage inside the double-decker bar near North Fourth Street. But don't be fooled by her indifferent gaze — this cow's got some kick. The operator can change its speed and buck intensity at any time, inevitably leaving its rider with a bruised dignity that only another tequila can repair.

Michelle's installation marks a historic moment for Brooklyn and the whole of the

entertainment world. Versions of the beast have encircled Kings County for decades — some claim that the first mechanical bull was introduced to train rodeo cowboys in New Jersey circa 1930 — but not in decades have Brooklynites been able to taste its torso-bending splendor.

Still, there are plenty of theories surrounding the robo-bull's origins.

"It depends on what you call 'mechanical,'" said Robin Whincup, owner of the Florida-based Rodeo Bull Company, which manufactures the machines. "Some of the early ones were barrels fastened to a spring. The first motorized ones were, I believe, from the 1950s or '60s."

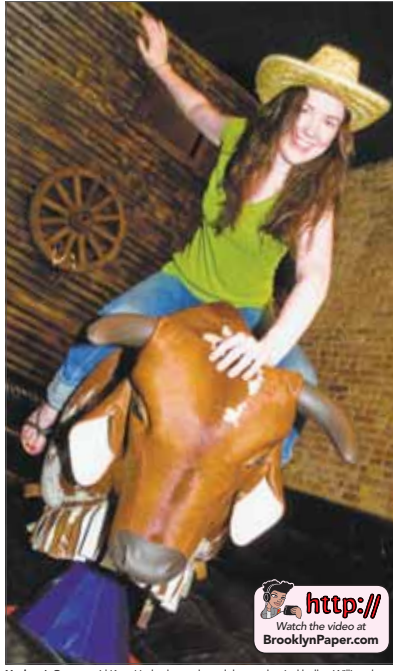
Back then, the training apparatuses were "very aggressive and potentially dangerous," until they became an entertainment product. Whincup said that he still sells most of his machines to rental companies, but that bulls are making it big in the bar scene.

"[Bulls] put some of these bars on the map — they always put 20 to 30 percent on the bar take instantly," he said. "For every 100 people in the room, there's 25 who are brave enough or stupid enough to get on and ride."

Oh, and Whincup confirmed that a couple shots of tequila can help with skill or at least ego.

But when you're not making a fool of yourself, you can enjoy the Viva Toro's ice-cold taps (they've got Negra Modelo) or extensive Mexican fare, including huge tacos (\$9), fajitas (\$14-16) and skirt steak (\$17).

Yippie-ki-yay, Brooklyn.



Yeehaw! Our cowgirl Kato Hurley hops aboard the mechanical bull at Williamsburg's Viva Toro, the only place in Brooklyn where you can brave the bucking ride.

http://
Watch the video at
BrooklynPaper.com

Our man rides the bull



By Andy Campbell

Just like the cowboys always said: When the bull bucks you off, get up and have another shot of tequila.

Last weekend, this reporter went toe-to-toe with Brooklyn's most dangerous, vicious, and only mechanical bull — which was just installed at the Viva Toro bar on Berry Street in Williamsburg.

Now, I've braved some gutsy challenges in my day — including the obligatory Taser-ing — but none whipped my spine around like tumbleweed. Indeed, it was my first ride on a hulking 1,600 pounds of steel, hydraulics and horns — but a little liquid courage



Not Andy Campbell.

and the roar of the (laughing) crowd put me in a cool state of do-no-care.

Straddling the beast — given the appropriate feminine name, Michelle — I

held my cowboy hat up high and dug in my spurs. The operator has full control of the monster, including its spin speed and buck strength, which gives that extra little touch of mystery.

And fear. I lost my B-card with surprising grace. Though I flew face-first into the inflatable arena several times, bartenders said I gripped the saddle with the strength and expertise of a "solid" amateur, rather than a newbie. If you've ever been blessed with the opportunity to see these monster thighs, you'd know why I was able to hold on for so long.

I even had to tell the operator to ramp it up a bit — the kiddie setting was just too elementary.

All right, so I may have cheated a little bit: a mechanical bull manufacturer gave me some tips before that fateful ride.

"Most people turn into a wooden plank

when they get on," said Robin Whincup, owner of the England-based Rodeo Bull Company. "If the bull's going one way, you have to counter-balance your weight and go the other way, otherwise you're done."

Here are some other tips for Michelle's next victims: take them from a cowboy who knows:

- Drink booze. Syrup may not make you the king of the rodeo, but it's gonna hurt a lot less when you get thrown off (physically and in regards to your dignity).

- Lock the thighs, loosen the torso. It's all about holding on with your dominant hand and legs. If you stiffen up, your body will follow the bull's erratic movement — when she jolts in another direction, your momentum will send you flying.

- Counter-balance your weight. If the bull goes one way, move your upper half in the opposing direction. Also, hold your other arm in the air to balance yourself. You'll stay on a lot longer and look really cool.

- Get a hat, and don't blow it. Seriously, you're gonna have some spectators at Viva Toro. We condone having the guts to ride, but if you're going to impress the ladies (or gentlemen), try looking like a real cowboy and stay on as long as you can.

CINEMA

Greatest hits

Charlie Chaplin was the Tramp, but there's nothing low-class about the upcoming multimedia tribute to the silent film legend.

On July 22, three Chaplin movies will screen outdoors at the Prospect Park band shell, accompanied by a live performance of their musical scores. Brooklyn-born London Philharmonic conductor Carl Davis, who wrote the scores decades after the films were released, will conduct the Brooklyn Philharmonic.

The three movies in the Celebrate Brooklyn show are all from Chaplin's work with the Mutual Film Corporation, which gave the mustache-sporting director the artistic control he desired. "Easy Street" and "One A.M.," released in 1916, as well as "Behind the Screen," released in 1917, are slapstick comedies that "are considered to be among Chaplin's best comedies," said Celebrate Brooklyn producer Jack Walsh.

The Chaplin Mutuals at Prospect Park band shell (Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Park Slope, (718) 855-7882, July 22, 7 p.m. For info, visit www.bricartsmedia.org.

— Alex Rush

DINING

Bistro is back

Just in time for Bastille Day, the irrepressible Bruno Berrebi has completely transformed his excellent restaurant, Moutarde, into a more casual bistro, Moutarde: Le Bistro de la Rue.

We've always loved Berrebi's Fifth Avenue joint, so we were unpett concerned that the swiitcheero would leave us underwhelmed. But we were just being neurotic. The menu retains some of our favorite "Moutarde classics," such as mussels marinere and hanger steak, while adding in an entirely new category: les poetes.

Chef Martial Polibout (pictured) fills these "silver pans" — a mainstay in French bistros — with a mini two-course meal. Standouts include seared scallops with buttered squash and zucchini, a grilled salmon on a bed of vegetables and a shrimp bouillabaisse with some nice, cheese-covered toast.

It's a great value at \$13.95.

Better still, is Berrebi himself. Always quick with the perfect wine recommendation and some bona mots about Sarkozy, Berrebi moves about the dining room like everyone's best friend.

The newly designed interior — much less French than before — even includes some cheeky wit on the wall next to the toilet (we won't spoil the joke here, but check it out).

Also, don't skip the homemade eclairs for dessert.

Moutarde: Le Bistro de la Rue (239 Fifth Ave. at Carroll Street, (718) 623-3600).

— Gersh Kuntzman

ART

Shake it up

The retro appeal of the Polaroid hasn't died, even in the age of the ultimate in instant photography — the digital camera.

For A.M. Richard Fine Art's latest exhibit, "Polaroid: Instant Joy!" photographer Andrew Garn culled together Polaroids from the last 30 years, with pieces ranging from the comic (Bill Ray's 1980 photograph of Andy Warhol holding a large Polaroid camera) to the abstract (Ellen Carey's smears of color in "Pulls with mixed and Off-Set Pods").

This show attempts to capture the range of vision, spontaneity and experiments possible with the Polaroid," said Garn.

Indeed, pieces range from the black-and-white seriousness of Jennifer Trausch's piece — a close-up of a handgrip in a woman's lap, its edges even more defined by the photograph's lack of color — to the vibrance of Richard McCabe's abstract grid of blurred, bold colors.

And you thought the best part about Polaroids was shaking the film.

"Polaroid: Instant Joy!" at A.M. Richard Fine Art (328 Berry St. between S. Fourth and S. Fifth streets in Williamsburg, (917) 570-1476, now through July 31. For info, visit www.amrichardfineart.com.

— Meredith Deliso

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Vive la France!

Put away those Freedom Fries and celebrate Bastille Day in the boro

By Meredith Deliso and
Damian Harris-Hernandez
The Brooklyn Paper

On Bastille Day, local Frenchmen party like it's 1789.

While the official day is July 14, the real action doesn't start until the weekend. And from Bay Ridge to Smith Street to Williamsburg, any restaurant worth its croque madame will be celebrating the holiday, which basically commemorates France's declaration of independence from itself.

Now we're as American as tartar, but we never had anything against the French (even during those dark "Freedom Fries" days), so you can be sure we'll be hitting the Ricard pretty hard this week.

You can, too, with our handy guide to getting the most joie for your vivre.

Smith Street

Bar Tabac will be the centerpiece of a blocks-long party on Sunday, July 18.

The French eatery, at Dean Street, will be waving the ol' rouge, blanc and bleu by hauling in 20 tons of sand for

North America's largest pétanque tournament.

Eighty teams with players from around the world will ruthlessly compete for the championship in this vaguely interesting national pastime (see sidebar).

Other Smith Street restaurants, including Apartment 138 and Robin Des Bois, will conduct their business outdoors, offering French street fare like moules frites and merguez, a spicy sausage sandwich. Provence En Boite will also provide some live music to listen to while feasting on traditional French street food, such as croque madame.

"It's so nuts," says Nate Bowley, manager at Bar Tabac. "It's our busiest day, but everybody is in a festive mood." When asked if he had any pétanque tips, he offered, "Get some loit on that ball."

Bar Tabac (128 Smith St., at Dean Street, (718) 923-0919), Apartment 138 (138 Smith St. between Dean and Bergen streets, (718) 858-0556), Robin Des Bois (195 Smith St. between Warren and Baltic streets, (718) 596-1609).

Juliette

In Williamsburg, Juliette is pulling out all the stops for its Bastille Day celebration on July 17. Where else can you listen to live French



Smith Street's Bastille Day celebration takes over the block on July 18, with a day of food, music and pétanque.

What is pétanque?

The game of pétanque is as old as France herself. But Americans often can't understand a game that's so, how you say, vague. It's like a drunken game of horseshoes walked into a dive bar and hooked up with a game of shuffleboard—on the beach. In other words, the object of this French national pastime is to throw balls down a long sand alley in hopes of getting them close to each other.

Let's begin.

First of all, you need to form two teams with anywhere from one to four players on each side. Unlike bocce, you do not need a "court" or boundaries. Pétanque aficionados actually prefer rough and uneven surfaces to add variety and challenge to the game.

But some special equipment is necessary: a small wooden ball and six to eight larger metal balls called boules.

After you find some dirt, draw a circle to stand in and toss a coin to see which team throws first. With both feet planted in the circle, a

player on the first team tosses the small target ball, the jack (or "le jack"), 20 to 30 feet. Then anyone from that team throws a boule in hopes of landing it as close to the jack as possible.

The second team tries to best the first team by getting it even closer. The team with the loudest toss until they get a leading boule.

The game gets good when one team uses their boules to knock the other team's boules out of the way.

This is a game where you want to be a boule buster.

The round is over when each player has tossed all his boules. Only the team with the boules closest to the jack scores the points. The scoring team receives a point for each boule that is closer than the other team's leading boule.

The winners start the new round, and the game carries on until a team reaches 13 points.

—Damian Harris-Hernandez

Drink this

The official liqueur of Bastille Day is Lillet, a French aperitif wine made from wine and citrus liqueurs over ice, with, naturally, sliced citrus. But you can also make a refreshing spritzer with the white wine. Bar Tabac on Smith Street shares their recipe for a Lillet Spritzer.

Lillet Spritzer
(courtesy of Bar Tabac)

INGREDIENTS:
5 ounces Lillet
1 ounces club soda

Pour Lillet into a wine glass filled with ice. Top with club soda. Garnish with an orange slice.

—Meredith Deliso

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On Thursday, July 29, get swing dance lessons from instructor Eve Polich at 6:30 PM. Beginners welcome.

Then, enjoy a live performance of swing songs by Matt Munisteri at 7 PM.

www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8
pm. J.J. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope)
FULTON FLEA: 11 am–7 pm.
See Saturday, July 17.

OTHER

RED HOOKED OPENING WEEKEND: Brooklyn Waterfront Artist Coalition presents art show featuring 200 artists in all media. Free. 1 pm. Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition (499 Van Brunt St., near Reed Street in Red Hook, (717) 655-2980). www.bwac.org

FILM, "I WAS A MALE WARRIOR": As part of a retrospective on Cary Grant. \$12 (38 members), 3, 6 and 9 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org

MON, JULY 19

FILM, "CRISIS": As part of a retrospective on Cary Grant. \$12 (38 members), 6:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org

OPERA, "BARBER OF SEVILLE": The irreverent opera on tap presents Rossini's classic opera. Free. 6 pm. Old Stone House (136 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195). www.theoldstonehouse.org

MUSIC, TOM BRAXTON: Free. 7:30 pm. Wingate Field (Brooklyn Avenue between Rutland Road and Winthrop Street in Crown Heights, (718) 222-0600). www.brooklynccnyclones.com

MARC MARON STAND-UP: The political comedian and radio host performs. \$15. 7:30 pm. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). www.unionhall.org

TUES, JULY 20

READING, JULIA HOLMES: Author of "Milk". Free. 2 pm. Word (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096). wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com

FILM, "WALK, DON'T RUN": As part of a retrospective on Cary Grant. \$12 (38 members), 6:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org

DANCING UNDER THE STARS: Programming for kids and adults. 6–9 pm. Washington Park (Fifth Avenue at Third Street in Park Slope, (718) 369-0300). www.parkside.org

SPORTS, BROOKLYN CYCLONES VS. LOWELL SPINNERS: 5:30–8:15. 7 pm. MCU Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th St. in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497). www.brooklynnyclones.com



Toni Braxton plays Wingate Field on July 19.

WED, JULY 21

SOCIAL NETWORKING BREAKFAST: Learn more about how Facebook and

Twitter can help your store, bar or restaurant. 9:30 am. Aunt Susie's Restaurant (247 Fifth Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 369-0300). www.parkside.org

SPORTS, BROOKLYN CYCLONES VS. LOWELL SPINNERS: 5:30–8:15. 7 pm. MCU Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th St. in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497). www.brooklynnyclones.com

READING, ANTHONY DOER: Author of "Memory Wall". Free. 7 pm. Powerhouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049). www.powerhousearena.com

FILM, "THE FRENCH CONNECTION": As part of the restaurant's Brooklynite's Film Fest. 8 pm. Enoteca on Court (347 Court St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 243-1000). www.enotecacourt.com

FILM, BROOKLYN FILM WORKS: Free outdoor film series. Free. 8:30 pm. Old Stone House (136 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195). www.theoldstonehouse.org

THEATER, "NOCTURNES": 8:30 pm. See Friday, July 16.

THURS, JULY 22
THEATER, "AS YOU LIKE IT": Bring a picnic and enjoy a staged reading of the Shakespeare classic at the Oriental Pavilion. Free. 5–7 pm. Prospect Park Woolman Hill (Ocean Ave. at Parkside Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 965-8999). www.prospectpark.org

THEATER, "HAMLETT": Shakespeare's seminal work, starring Broadway's Jeremy Bobb ("The Dead Poets Society"). \$18 adults, \$12 children and seniors. 7:30 pm. Gallery Players (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101). galleryplayers.com

SPORTS, BROOKLYN CYCLONES VS. LOWELL SPINNERS: 5:30–8:15. 7 pm. MCU Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th St. in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497). www.brooklynnyclones.com

FILM, "GUNGHO DIN": As part of a retrospective on Cary Grant. \$12 (38 members), 6:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org

FILM, "THE BIG LEBOWSKI": Outdoor film series in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Movie starts at sundown. Free. 6 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park (1 Main Street at Water Street in DUMBO, www.brooklynbridgepark.org)

MUSIC, CARL DAVIS: British conductor leads Brooklyn Philharmonic in live performances of his Easy Street. 7:30 pm. Prospect Park Band Shell (Enter Park at Prospect Park West and Ninth St. in Prospect Park, (718) 965-8900). www.brooklynnyclones.com

LITERARY PANEL DISCUSSION: Featuring writers Lauren Wilig, Sarah Wendell, Hope Fier, Sarah McLenn. Free. 7:30 pm. Word (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096). wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com

MUSIC, THE BEACH BOYS, THE TURTLES, MICKEY DOLENZ: Free. 7:30 pm. Asaf Yaffi Seaside Park (West Fifth Street and Surf Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 222-0600). www.brooklynconcerts.com

FILM, "FINDING NEMO": Free outdoor movie series. Free. 8 pm. Narrows Botanic Garden (Shore

Road between Bay Ridge Avenue and 72nd Street in Bay Ridge). www.narrows.org

FILM, "TAXI DRIVER": As part of the restaurant's Brooklynite's Film Fest. 8 pm. Enoteca on Court (347 Court St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 243-1000). www.enotecacourt.com

THEATER, "NOCTURNES": 8:30 pm. See Friday, July 16.

FRI, JULY 23
GREENPOINT FLEA MARKET: noon–8 pm. See Friday, July 16.

THEATER, "HAMLETT": 7:30 pm. See Thursday, July 22.

FILM, "AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER": As part of a retrospective on Cary Grant. \$12 (38 members), 6:30, 6:50 and 9:15 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org

FAMILY NIGHT: Music and a night movie ("Night in the Museum"). Free. 6–9 pm. East River State Park (Enter at Kent Avenue and N. Eighth Street in Williamsburg, (347) 559-1401).

MUSIC, DOMA ESTERO AND CO: Latin folk music. Free (53 suggested donation). 7 pm. Prospect Park Band Shell (Enter Park at Prospect Park West and Ninth St. in Prospect Park, (718) 965-8900). www.brooklynnyclones.com

COMEDY NIGHT: 8 pm. See Saturday, July 17.

FRIDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS: 9:30 pm. See Friday, July 16.

SAT, JULY 24
OUTDOORS AND TOURS GREEN MARKET: 8 am–3 pm. See Saturday, July 17.

HEALTH, BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB: 9 am. See Saturday, July 17.

PERFORMANCE
THEATER, "HAMLETT": 2 pm and 7:30 pm. See Thursday, July 22.

MUSIC, FIELD OF DREAMS: World music and art fair. Free (53 suggested donation). 4 pm. Prospect Park Band Shell (Enter Park at Prospect Park West and Ninth St. in Prospect Park, (718) 965-8900). www.brooklynnyclones.com

MUSIC, FORT GREENE JAZZ: World music and art fair. Free (53 suggested donation). 4 pm. Prospect Park Band Shell (Enter Park at Prospect Park West and Ninth St. in Prospect Park, (718) 965-8900). www.brooklynnyclones.com

MUSIC, SAVED BY THE BELL: You're invited to the official Bayside HS Dance! Character costumes are strongly encouraged, but simply dressing like a student at Bayside is totally acceptable as well. \$15. 8 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510). www.thebellhouse.com

THEATER, AMY AND DAVID SEDARIS' "THE BOOK OF UZI": 8:30 pm. See Saturday, July 17.

OTHER
SAND-SCULPTING CONTEST: Bring your hands, shovels, and pails. There are five categories for children and adults. Free. 11 am–5 pm. Coney Island Beach Boardwalk, between West 10th and West 12th streets in Coney Island, (718) 266-4633).

FILM, "ALICE IN WONDERLAND": As part of a retrospective on Cary Grant. \$12 (38 members), 3, 6 and 9 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org

"THE REJECTION SHOW": The theme of the night is "Lost on a Game Show," featuring appearances by comedians & writers that were humiliated on-air on popular game shows. \$5. 8 pm. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). www.unionhall.org

FLOATING KABARETT: 10 pm. See Saturday, July 17.

OUR OPINION

Goose riding wrong

The federal government's slaughter of more than 250 geese in Prospect Park last week was a horrifying crime that not only calls into question our abilities as stewards of the earth, but also our core values as a species.

We would call the massacre "cruel and inhuman," but, alas, its cruelty was all too human.

Mankind has long been accustomed to killing the so-called lower species, specifically when said species get in humanity's way, as the geese did in this case. As urban dwellers, we have certainly participated in—and benefited from—Man's domination of the environment. We, too, have flown out of JFK Airport, getting to cruising altitude safely because no geese was sucked into the engines.

But there is a big difference between the unfortunate taking of animal life in order to create essential roads, bridges, subways, safe air corridors and other human "necessities," and the senseless taking of animal life simply because we

lack the will to choose a better way or the talents to find one.

And that's the essential horror of what transpired in Prospect Park last week.

It's particularly ironic, given that Prospect Park officials have been under fire more than a year because of filthy conditions inside the greenspace and a recent spate of unexplained animal deaths. As a PR move, park officials showed off their proud flock to schoolkids—and our photographer—during a class trip last month, touting the lake as a living ecosystem.

All those geese are now dead.

Make no mistake, air passengers should be safe. But we find it simply incomprehensible that birds more than seven miles away from JFK Airport needed to be rounded up under cover

Meadows of



SHAME

of darkness, without so much as a word of public discussion, and gassed simply because other methods of pest control are more inconvenient or require more work on the part of humans.

Worse, the brutality took place inside the city's greatest park, an urban oasis that was built partly by give city dwellers a place to reconnect, albeit nominally, with nature.

Today, Prospect Park is a place where parents take their kids to watch the graceful flight of a swan, a bird alighting on a tree branch, or a turtle peeking out from its shell.

It chills the very soul to think that most of the birds fed by those very kids last week are now buried in an unmarked grave, victims of man's need to dominate the world—and his clear failure to respect animal life, and himself, in the process.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

New Prospect Park bike lane controversy still rages

To the editor,

As a pedestrian and driver, I am appalled at the Prospect Park West bike lane and your editorial about it ("The bike lane works," July 2).

It is obvious that this restructuring of the avenue has been implemented without a thorough study of human and vehicular traffic patterns, and contingencies. It was carried out without any regard for the opinion, or sensibility, of the residents.

Pedestrians, with or without dogs, will have to navigate two vehicular obstacle courses. After crossing two lanes of moving traffic, they have to stand between parked cars and watch for moving bicycles, most of which do not stop for red lights, are speeding, and going in opposition di-

rections. Pedestrians will have to risk injury, from a bike barreling down, by sticking their heads out from behind a car to ascertain if it is safe to proceed. A misstep can be costly to the pedestrian and the bike rider.

As a driver, I feel this change in the avenue is the worst idea ever.

Starting at Union Street, the bottleneck begins. Cars are converging into two lanes from Flatbush Avenue, and from the stop sign at Union Street. When a car is parking, it becomes one lane and cars weave around it. If a car is parking, and a car slows down for a right turn, all traffic comes to a halt and the honking begins. If a car double-parks to discharge a passenger, it becomes one lane.

During garbage pick-up, the sanitation trucks will block traffic flow for the length of Prospect Park West, and lest we forget because it's now summertime, in the winter the snow banked against the parked cars will again shrink the size of the two lanes. By the time stressed-out drivers get to Bartle-Pritchard Square, they floor the gas pedal.

The planners didn't pay much attention to the aesthetic, either. Prospect Park West has always had a visual grandeur comparable to a Parisian boulevard. The vista

from Grand Army Plaza was airy, cosmopolitan and leisurely. Tucked on one side with landmarked architecture on the other.

What we have in its place is a cramped, frustrating, unfriendly parking lot where pedestrians have to dodge angry drivers.

All this stress and impediment to go to bike riders will have their own lane, instead of competing for sidewalk space? How many months in a year will the lane be used? Will there be snow removal for this bike lane?

To dramatically, and drastically, alter an entire neighborhood, and imperil its denizens for a special interest group of bike riders, is outrageous.

Czerny Auyang, Park Slope

• • •

To the editor, Kudos for recognizing, and embracing, the many merits of the Prospect Park West bike path and traffic-calming project. As the Paper so rightly points out, the changes have been having the exact calming effects that the Department of Transportation and advocates, said they would.

Opponents of the traffic-calming project have distributed anonymous flyers full of misleading rhetoric, and have even launched a Facebook page with the green-washed headline "Neighbors for Better Bike Lanes." They've ascribed

all kinds of terrible dangers to the new bike path, none of which are evident to anyone else. These fallacious claims include:

• The reconfiguration of Prospect Park West was "sprung" on residents with no advance warning.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In March, 2006, possible Prospect Park West redesigns were discussed at a Park Slope Civic Council forum on neighborhood transportation issues. In June, 2007, Community Board 6 asked the Department of Transportation to "consider the installation of a Class I bicycle lane on Prospect Park West to remove some of the unneeded capacity." Park Slope Neighbors delivered a petition with more than 1,000 signatures to DOT in March, 2009, calling for the installation of a two-way, protected bike path along the park.

The removal of one travel lane has created terrible congestion on Prospect Park West.

This claim, too, is just not true. Prospect Park West carries relatively little traffic, which is handled easily by two travel lanes.

What has happened is that traffic now moves more calmly, since impatient drivers can no longer jockey among three wide lanes to speed around cars obeying the 30-mile-per-hour speed limit.

• Double-parked vehicles create a dangerous situation for first responders.

This is a favorite scare tactic of bike path opponents, but it willfully ignores the fact that Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth avenues all have just two travel lanes, which emergency vehicles have negotiated, without apparent tragedy, for the past 100 years or so.

• It's impossible to park in the new "floating" parking lane, and it's dangerous to get in and out of one's car.

Frankly, any driver who can't park in these new lanes shouldn't be behind the wheel. A three-foot buffer separates the parking area from the bike lane, so for a car to impinge on the bike path, a driver would have to do the equivalent of pulling three feet onto a sidewalk.

That three-foot buffer also allows plenty of room to open a car door and get in or out of one's car.

It's impossible to safely cross the bike path because of all the speeding, unyielding cyclists. Somewhere, opponents would have you believe that crossing three lanes of often speeding traffic was easier than crossing two lanes with large pedestrian refuges adjacent to the bike path. Even with lots of cyclists using the path, there's ample time to cross, and cyclists are reminded

frequently along the path, with signage and flashing yellow lights, to yield. Yes, there are some ill-behaved bikers, just as there are ill-behaved drivers, but statistics show clearly that city streets on which protected bike paths have been implemented have gotten safer for all users—pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

• Cyclists already have the park to ride in.

This is a common refrain that ignores a critical element of the bike path—the presence of a northbound lane. The park loop is one-way, counterclockwise, which means that a cyclist wanting to go northbound from Bartle-Pritchard Square to Grand Army Plaza has to ride past Kensington and Prospect-Lefferts Gardens and up a big hill to make that turn.

Making the park loop two-way, as some have suggested, because of the presence of faster recreational cyclists, would make the loop more dangerous to cross. And there are only four legal access points to the loop from Prospect Park West, at Grand Army Plaza, Third Street, Fifth Street and Bartle-Pritchard Square. Additionally, the park is off-limits after 1 a.m.

It's ugly. Well, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. While some argue that a wider avenue was more aesthetically pleasing, others believe

the reduction in speeding has made Prospect Park West quieter, calmer and more inviting. Some people might even think that the sight of a five-year-old learning to ride without training wheels on a protected bike path is preferable to that of a speeding SUV cutting across three lanes of traffic in an attempt to outrun the lights. It also fails to say that Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted did not envision a three-lane speedway as the western border of Prospect Park.

The bottom line is that the changes to Prospect Park West are having the exact effects that the Department of Transportation intended, and Prospect Park West is now the kind of "complete street" that will more and more become the norm in New York City and around the world. As more people get on bikes to commute, run errands or recreate, as we deal with the negative effects of transit cuts, and as it becomes scarcer and more expensive, all street users will have to better learn to share the roads.

Those opposed to the Prospect Park redesign can deny that future and keep on fighting progress, or they can join the ranks of people supporting the changes to help educate pedestrians, cyclists and drivers about how to peacefully coexist in our new city.

Eric McClure, Park Slope

Send a letter

By e-mail: newsroom@mcglocal.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One MetroTech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

OSFO's unplanned summer

At the end of July, the Oh So Feisty One and Smartnom will head to a fictitious island with a friend. Loved for a couple of weeks of surf, sun, and bike riding, but until then, OSFO didn't have much planned. And that's just the way OSFO wants it. OSFO made it abundantly clear that she wanted a few weeks of down time before going away. Besides, Smartnom thinks it's perfectly fine for kids to have some good old-fashioned unstructured time in the summer.

Generally, Well, the first week of summer vacation is always a novelty. The release from school and its responsibilities is a real thrill for the whole family.

During the first week, OSFO had friends over. She cleaned her bedroom and threw out old books and clothing that she doesn't need anymore.

That seemed fairly productive.

But week two of summer

vacation was less so. Most of OSFO's friends were away, and she spent the week sleeping late and lying around. And when she wasn't sleeping, she had her face in a book or watching movies and TV shows on her laptop.

Of course, the weather was very hot and you can't blame OSFO for wanting to stay inside in the air conditioning. Still...

One afternoon, Smartnom was minding her own business when Crazy Lady called to her.

"Why isn't your daughter doing anything this summer?" she asked Smartnom.

Smartnom knew it was none of Crazy Lady's business and she tried to ignore this unpleasant woman, who seems to drop by at the oddest moments. But that's not easy.

"Why doesn't she take teen parties or a dance class at Dancetown?"

Smartnom didn't know what to say. Sure, she'd be happy if OSFO wanted to



By Louise Crawford

take a summer class, but why was this any of Crazy Lady's business?

"How about a job. Diaper Diva needs someone to take Daddy to her camp at the Botanic Gardens?" Crazy Lady said to Smartnom.

Smartnom knew that Crazy Lady had a point. The summer is a great time to try something new like a class or a part-time job. It can be a real growth experience.

Without stopping to catch her breath, Crazy Lady regaled Smartnom with tales of what some of the other children in the neighborhood were up to.

"My friend's daughter is riding horses in Prospect Park and working at the Kensington Stables," Crazy Lady told

Smartnom.

"Another kid is taking sailing lessons at Battery Park City, and I know a ton of kids doing theater camp." Crazy Lady yelled at Smartnom.

Smartnom found herself feeling lousy. Maybe she should have signed OSFO up for one of those interesting and educational activities.

She also found herself thinking back to her teen summers. When she was 14, Smartnom took pottery lessons. Truthfully, she was never able to center the clay, but she did make some nice cool pots.

Another year, she took sailing lessons in a Sunfish on Marlin's Vineyard. Another summer she was a counselor-in-training at a sleep-away camp in Maine. Still another summer, she worked at Broadway Smooth, scooping ice cream and making milkshakes.

"You're just getting defensive. You know you're a bad mom," Crazy Lady taunted.

That was the last straw. Smartnom started pushing Crazy Lady out, but the broad put up a fight.

"You're just feeling guilty because your daughter is wasting her time," she spit

out at Smartnom.

"Get out of here," Smartnom screamed. "Get out of my apartment. Scram."

That's when OSFO got up off the couch and came into the kitchen.

"Why are you talking to me like this?" OSFO asked. "It was so loud I could barely hear my movie."

Smartnom looked around. That's when she realized that Crazy Lady had exited. She was glad that OSFO didn't see her or hear any of her crazy talk. Smartnom wasn't sure what to say.

"Oh, I was just singing along with the radio," she told OSFO.

"But the radio isn't even on," OSFO told her, eyeing her suspiciously.

"Hey, do you want to go out and get some ice cream?" Smartnom asked OSFO.

"How about Yogo Monster?" OSFO countered.

"Great idea," Smartnom said, relishing the idea of taking a long walk on an unstructured summer afternoon.

Est your heart out, Crazy Lady.

FAMILY CALENDAR

FRI, JULY 16

9:30 am: Youth perform classic plays from Shakespeare to "Little Shop of Horrors." Free. Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 563-3195). www.piepertheatre.org.

11 am-4 pm: Fishing contest. 63rd Annual Macy's fishing contest. For children 15 and under. Free. Prospect Park (Well Street in Prospect Park, www.prospectpark.org/calendar/fishingcontest).

3 pm: "Illicitation." Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's new summer circus. \$10-\$50. Coney Island Boardwalk (45th Avenue at West 21st Street in Bayside, (800) 345-3000). www.ringling.com/coneyisland.

6:15 pm: Movie night. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. thetimespot.com.

SAT, JULY 17

10:30 am: Story time for kids. Greenlight Bookstore (685 Fulton St. between South Elliott Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200). abookstoreinbrooklyn.blogspot.com.

11 am-4 pm: Fishing contest. See Friday, July 16.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Jack and the Beanstalk." The classic children's story with marionettes! 57 children. 58 adults. Puppetworks (138 Sixth Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391). puppetworks.org.

1 pm: "Illicitation." See Friday, July 16.

1:30 pm: Joanne Leads in concert. Free with Museum Admission. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 725-4400). www.brooklynkids.org.

2 pm: "Star Wars" book signing. With characters in costume. Free. Word (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096). wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com.

SUN, JULY 18

11 am-4 pm: Fishing contest. See Friday, July 16.

11:30 am: Singalong with Nat and Ani. \$2.50 per child (83 family). Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710]. thetimespot.com.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Jack and the Beanstalk." See Saturday, July 17.

1 pm: "Illicitation." See Friday, July 16.

To list your event, visit email@mcglocal.com

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BLOTTER...

Continued from page 4

Tech heist

A thief used old-school methods to swipe high-end electronics from a July 6 and July 9. The victims returned to their office between John and Plymouth streets after a three-day absence to find the door busted open and a MacBook Pro laptop, digital camera, scanner and other electronics missing.

The building's security cameras didn't record any burglars. — Alex Rush

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights

Builder burglar

A guy posing as a construction worker managed to get inside her home where he stole a MacBook Pro laptop, digital camera, scanner and other electronics missing.

The perp approached the senior citizen to let him into her backyard, which he then stole a MacBook Pro laptop, digital camera, scanner and other electronics missing.

Stone cold

A bling-loving thief jacked about a dozen pieces of birth stone-studded jewelry and a Fifth Avenue apartment on July 6.

The stylish victim told cops that she had left her house, which is between 87th and 88th streets, to go shopping around 11:30 a.m. and returned less than an hour later to find her front door open and her necklaces, bracelets and rings gone.

Bag man

A robber stole two pocketbooks from a car on Third Avenue on July 10. The jerk broke into the vehicle, which had been parked between 75th and 76th streets, sometime between 2 and 3 p.m. by popping the lock to the driver's-side door. The victim told cops that her bags contained cash, various cards, keys, a flash drive and her cell.

— Alex Rush

90TH PRECINCT

Southside-Bushwick

Stab you

A perp stole a man's wallet from his pants on Bushwick Avenue on July 7, but when the perp approached his victim near Scholes Street at 1:20 p.m. and attempted to snatch his wallet from his rear pocket. When the victim turned around, the perp pushed him to the ground and said, "If you don't give me

your wallet, I'll stab you."

The victim gave up his wallet, which contained \$135, and the perp fled.

Grocery grab

Two perps grabbed a man and stole his cash on July 6 while he was walking home from the grocery store on Leonard Avenue.

The perps approached the victim near Scholes Street at 6 p.m. One jerk grabbed him from behind while the other said, "Don't say anything, I don't want to hurt you, give me all you have," before rifling his pockets.

The perps took his phone and \$30.

Moving pains

A thief stole a woman's jewelry from a dresser that she was moving into her new S. Third Street apartment on June 30.

The thief snatched \$5,250 worth of jewelry from a wooden box, which the victim had left unattended at around 3 p.m. inside the apartment near Roebuck Street. An hour later, she discovered the jewelry was missing.

Four on one

Four thugs held up a 13-year-old boy on Lorimer Street on July 10, but when he refused to give him his money, they beat him instead.

The thugs approached the boy near Broadway

at 2:40 p.m., when one demanded, "Empty your pockets." When he refused, they punched and kicked him.

Laptop stolen

A thief broke into a Graham Avenue apartment on July 10 and stole a woman's laptop.

The thief entered the apartment near Montrose Avenue after 8:30 p.m., taking a computer and an iPod. When the tenant returned two hours later, she found her property was missing.

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Northside

Heat stroke

A quick burglar stole some laptops from a N. Seventh Street apartment while one roommate was sleeping and another was taking a walk outside due to the heat on July 6.

The victim told cops that he left his home, which is near Wythe Avenue, at about 10:15 p.m. because it was just too hot inside his apartment, though his roommate was inside sleeping. When he returned, he found his two laptops, \$25 and credit cards were missing, and the front door was ajar.

Train swipe

Two thugs assisted in stealing the contents of a woman's purse on an over-

crowded L train on July 6.

The girl told cops that she boarded the packed car, which was at the Graham Avenue stop near Metropolitan Avenue, at about 8:30 a.m. when the two perps came up behind her. One of them bumped her a couple times, leaving her "suspicious," and then they left the train. She turned and realized that her wallet, cash and credit cards were missing.

Getaway bike

A biking thief held up a woman with a knife and stole everything on her on Frost Street on July 6.

The victim told cops that she was near Woodpoint Road when the jerk rode up on the bike and said, "Give me your phone."

He held a knife to her face and she obliged him, handing over the cell along with \$400 and an Apple laptop. Then the thief sped away from her.

Fake firearm

Two hoodlums accosted a man and stole his cash, alleging that they had a gun on them. The victim told cops that he had parked his car near Front Street at about 4 a.m. when the two approached and demanded the money.

They searched his pockets and swiped \$200 and a cell phone before they fled.

Apartment trick

A ruffian connived his way into a Guernsey Street apartment and robbed a woman on July 10.

The woman was entering her home, which is between Meserole and Norman avenues, when the robber approached, saying that he was going to the second floor. She let him in, and he promptly grabbed her bag. They struggled a bit before he made off with her cash, checks, and an iPhone.

Car thefts

At least four vehicles were stolen this week in Greenpoint.

A 1996 Honda Accord was swiped from Metropolitan Avenue near Lorimer Street on July 6. Its owner arrived at about 10 p.m. to find the car missing.

A thief stole a 2002 Ford Explorer from Metropolitan and Kent avenues on July 6. The victim told cops that he noticed the truck missing at about 2 a.m.

A messy thief took a 2006 Acura from Eckford Street near Engert Avenue on July 7. The owner came back at 10 a.m. to find broken glass where his car used to be.

Some jerk stole a 2008 Ford truck from Manhattan and Nassau avenues on July 9. The victim noticed that the truck was missing at about 12:05 a.m.

— Andy Campbell

TOLL...

Continued from page 1

ing our money out the door and not having a return didn't make financial sense."

Toll had entered a contract to purchase the property from Joseph Phillips and Citibank in 2004, and made its down payment on the eventual purchase price of \$23.6 million, according to court papers filed last month.

"They are keeping the property and we made non-refundable deposits," Von Spreckelsen said, referring to a settlement of the case that was quietly made last month.

Had the project advanced, Toll would have purchased a total of three parcels on two adjoining blocks to build a mixed-income project with 477 apartments in a complex of townhouses and buildings scaling as high as 12 stories.

That vision had already worked its way through the city's land-use review process. As a result, Toll was one of many developers and property owners who blamed the Environmental Protection Agency for naming the canal a superfund site, arguing that the stigma of the designation would forestall development for years.

"These were never just idle threats," Von Spreck-

elsen said. "I spent five years of my life working on getting this done, and I don't think anything is going to happen there for a very long time."

The city opposed the designation and predicted it would jeopardize more than \$400 million of private investment, including the Toll Brothers complex.

The EPA was much about Toll's departure, putting out a statement that the agency "continues to focus on the extensive investigation into the contamination of the canal [to] ensure the health and safety of the surrounding community through an effective cleanup," which is expected to cost \$500 million.

Superfund supporters said good riddance to Toll—which last week was ranked first among home building companies in Fortune Magazine's "World's Most Admired Companies."

"This is the right thing for the Gowanus corridor," said area resident Linda Mariano. The land might sit there for now, but we still have a future. We want healthy water and healthy land and open space. It shouldn't just be for people who live in condos and co-ops."

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EYE OF THE STORM **THE WORLD'S BEST CYCLONES COVERAGE**



SCENES FROM MCU: (Left) The first of Cory Vaughn's two homers tied the score in Saturday night's victory over the State College Spikes. (Right) Rylan Sandoval earned high-fives for his sixth-inning dinger.



You gotta hand it to this Cyclone star

By Ben Kochman
for The Brooklyn Paper

The secret of the Brooklyn Cyclones' best hitter Darrell Ceciliani is all in the hands.

Call him a throwback, but this barked-back slugger does not use batting gloves — quite in contrast to virtually every other player in every other professional baseball league.

"Yeah, some people call me 'old-school,'" said Ceciliani after yet another multiple-hit game during a remark-



Darrell Ceciliani doesn't wear batting gloves. His hands are a mess.

able season where his batting average has hovered around the Ted Williams mark. "But I've always felt more comfortable this way, ever since I picked up a bat."

It's not as if Ceciliani's prowess with a bat is a complete surprise. The 20-year-old was the Mets' fourth-round pick last year, and scouted as a hitting prospect.

But few could have predicted that he'd get through the first third of the season with a .371 average, good for

second-best in the New York-Penn. League.

To achieve such greatness, the pride of Madras, Ore. willingly surrenders to a few days of intense pain, as his hands become calloused and ready for action — a process he's endured since Little League.

In today's major league landscape, it is a rare sight to see a player spurning batting gloves (starting New York Yankees catcher Jorge Posada is one notable exception to this rule, as was Williams). But Cyclones manager Wally Backman is confident that his barehanded ball basher has the goods.

"He's one of the youngest guys out there, but he's got baseball instincts," the former Met legend said. And a tough set of paws.

'Angel' on hand

Angel Pagan, the Mets speedy centerfielder, visited MCU Park last week for ceremonial purposes — but his presence reminded longtime fans that this Cyclones team could accomplish the same great things that Pagan's inaugural Cyclones team achieved.

After all, this year's model has great bats, astounding speed and wonderful starting pitching — the same three pillars that propped up the 2001 New York-Penn. League champion Cyclones.

Pagan was dominant in that Clones team of 2001 — finishing the team's first season with 75 hits, a .315 average, and a franchise-best 30 stolen bases.

That 2001 team played loose, was 30-8 at home, and had a potent offense sparked by the future Mets star's baserunning.

The current incarnation of the Clones features similar characteristics: they play their best baseball at home, and the offense is sparked by the red-hot Darrell Ceciliani, who often finds himself on base when sluggers Cory Vaughn and Jeff Flagg do their dirty work.

And all the Cyclones should heed the words of advice Pagan offered

last Thursday night. "At first, I was scared of the crowd [at KeySpan Park]," said Pagan. "But eventually I took advantage of it — whether the crowd is against you or not, you learn from it."

Pagan — who is currently batting .311 for the Mets — added that by the end of the season, every home game at Coney Island was a blast.

"The atmosphere was great, I looked forward to it everyday," Pagan said, adding with a smile, "If you remember, we only lost [a few] games at home."



BARNSTORMIN'
with Stephen Brown

The key, of course, is beating the Yankees, who swept the Clones last week and will likely fight the Cyclones all the way to the playoffs.

"We had to beat them, there was no choice," Pagan said, recalling the glorious 2001 semi-finals. "We lost that first game [of the series], but then they came to our house — no one beat us in our house."

The Cyclones then won the first game of the final series on the road against the Williamsport Crosscutters, but the next day was Sept. 11, 2001. The remainder of the series was canceled and the Cyclones and Crosscutters shared a title that right-



Former Cyclone legend Angel Pagan — now a Mets star — visited MCU Park.

fully belonged to Brooklyn. Pagan threw out the first pitch and also tossed some advice to Hamilton Bennett, the hard-throwing reliever.

"He told me to take in the experience and take advantage of every opportunity," said the 22-year-old Bennett, who admitted the way Pagan carried himself. "He always hustles and plays the game the right way."

That night, Bennett pitched a scoreless ninth inning. If the rest of the bullpen continues to improve along with Bennett, the current Cyclones — who lead the New York-Penn. League in batting average, home runs, and hits — may just follow in the footsteps of the 2001 team that gave Pagan his first taste of victory in New York.

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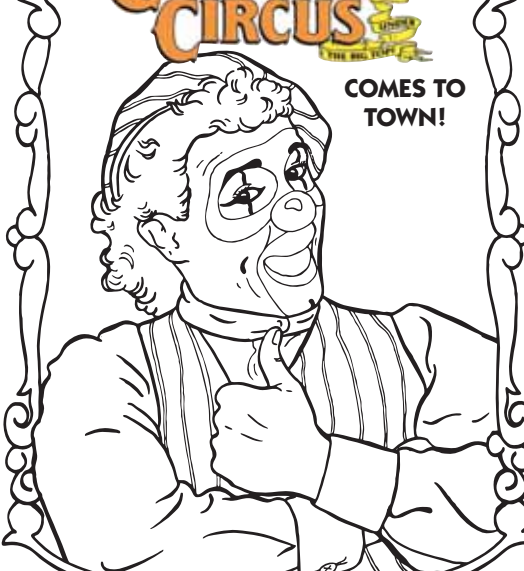
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